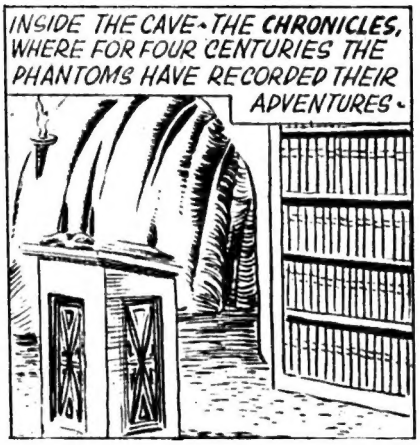
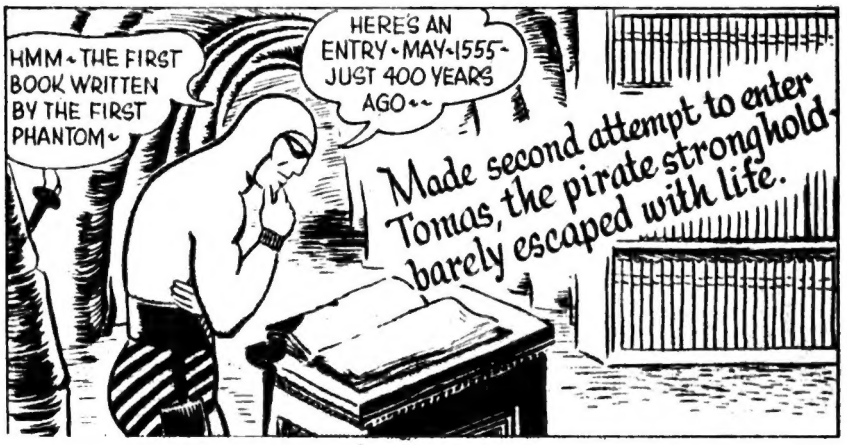
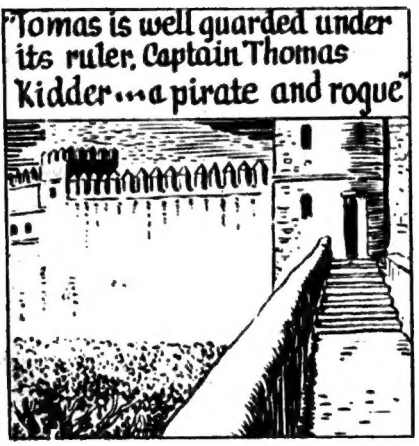
IN THE DEEP WOODS, HOME OF THE PYGMY BANDAR, THE FABULOUS SKULL CAVE--
WILSON McCOY 5-23

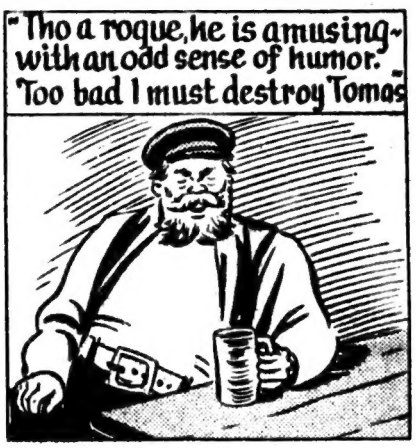

INSIDE THE CAVE-THE CHRONICLES, WHERE FOR FOUR CENTURIES THE PHANTOMS HAVE RECORDED THEIR ADVENTURES-

"-TAGON MARRIED MELINE AND LIVED-WE HOPE-HAPPILY EVER AFTER." HMM, THAT ENDS THAT.

I HAVEN'T READ THE OLD VOLUMES FOR A LONG TIME--
HERE'S THE FIRST BOOK-OF THE FIRST PHANTOM-400 YEARS OLD-


HMM-THE FIRST BOOK WRITTEN BY THE FIRST PHANTOM-
HERE'S AN ENTRY-MAY-1555-JUST 400 YEARS AGO--
Made second attempt to enter Tomas, the pirate stronghold barely escaped with life.


"Tomas is well guarded under its ruler, Captain Thomas Kidder...a pirate and rogue"


"Tho a rogue, he is amusing-with an odd sense of humor." Too bad I must destroy Tomas

MY ANCESTOR, THE FIRST PHANTOM, FOUND THE PIRATE THOMAS KIDDER "AMUSING" AND "STRANGE"

"One day I called to Kidder"
SURRENDER YOUR CITY, KIDDER.
NOT TODAY. I'M TOO TIRED.
WILSON McCOY 5-25

"He fired-I dodged--"
MISSED YOU. SORRY. NOW YOUR TURN.

"He was amusing but Tomas had to end!"
-AND YOU MISSED ME! NOW WE'RE EVEN. SHALL WE HAVE ANOTHER GO OF IT TOMORROW?

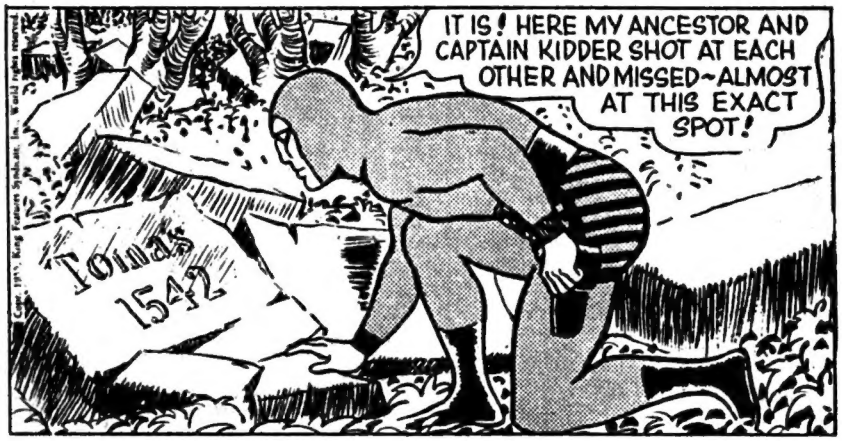
May 26, 1555: I gained entrance into the Pirate city of Tomas.

"I reached the powder magazine and lighted a long fuse:"

"That ended Tomas-but there was no trace of Captain Thomas Kidder-I'm told he escaped--"

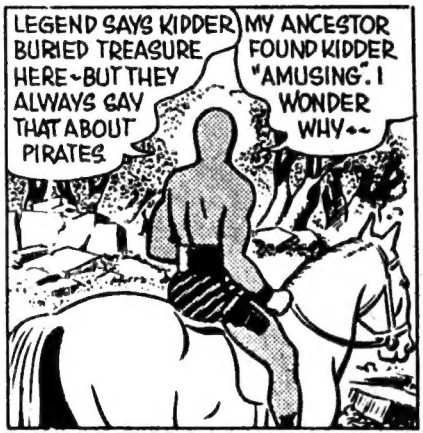
HMM-MY ANCESTOR, THE FIRST PHANTOM, PLAYED ROUGH!
I'D LIKE TO FIND THE RUINS OF TOMAS. THEY MUST BE NEARBY.
TOMORROW-TOMAS

THAT IS-I THINK-ANCIENT CITY OF TOMAS.
CAN IT BE? THE JUNGLE HAS ALMOST COVERED IT.
IS THIS THE PIRATE CITY MY ANCESTOR-THE FIRST PHANTOM-DESTROYED FOUR CENTURIES AGO?


IT IS! HERE MY ANCESTOR AND CAPTAIN KIDDER SHOT AT EACH OTHER AND MISSED-ALMOST AT THIS EXACT SPOT!
Tomas 1542

FOUR CENTURIES AGO THIS WAS A PIRATE CITY-FILLED WITH LIFE, ROUGH MEN AND ROUGH WORDS-ALL GONE-

MY ANCESTOR, THE FIRST PHANTOM, DESTROYED IT SINGLE-HANDED. BUT HE NEVER CAPTURED CAPTAIN THOMAS KIDDER-


LEGEND SAYS KIDDER BURIED TREASURE HERE-BUT THEY ALWAYS SAY THAT ABOUT PIRATES.
MY ANCESTOR FOUND KIDDER "AMUSING". I WONDER WHY--

AND IN A FAR-OFF MUSEUM--
I'VE DECIDED ON A NEW EXPLORATION--TO FIND THE LOST CITY OF TOMAS.
WILSON McCOY 5-28

PROF. DIGG, HEAD OF A LARGE MUSEUM - A SCHOLARLY MAN -

ROD, HIS ASSISTANT - NOT SO SCHOLARLY - HAS FALLEN INTO A BAD HABIT - - GAMBLING - -

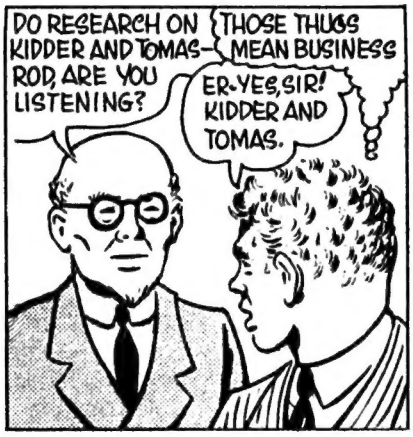
ENOUGH FOR YOU TONIGHT, ROD. MARK WANTS TO SEE YOU.
OKAY - - (GULP) GYP - -

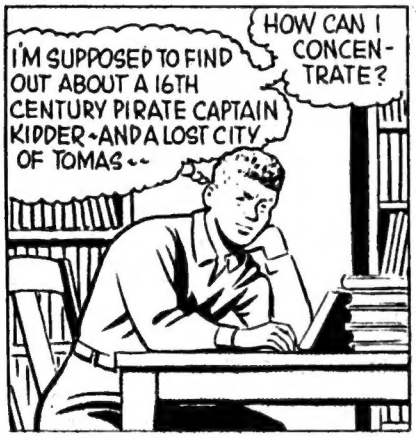
YOU'RE INTO ME FOR TEN GRAND - I WANT MY MONEY. WE DON'T LIKE WELSHERS!
I'LL PAY, MARK! HONEST!
HOW, ON MY SIXTY A WEEK?

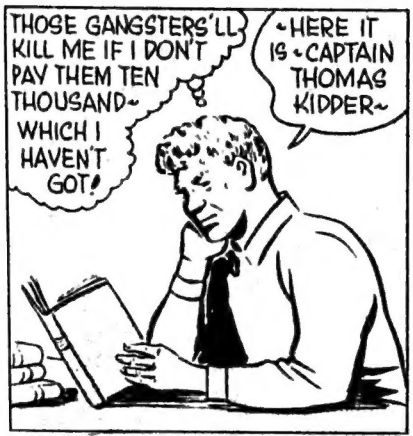
ROD, WE'RE STARTING AN EXPEDITION TO FIND THE LOST CITY OF TOMAS.
YES, PROF. DIGG.
HOW CAN I PAY THAT TEN THOUSAND GAMBLING DEBT?

AN OLD LEGEND OF A PIRATE CITY FOUNDED BY A CAPTAIN THOMAS KIDDER AND DESTROYED BY THE PHANTOM - WHOEVER HE WAS.
WILSON McCOY 5-31

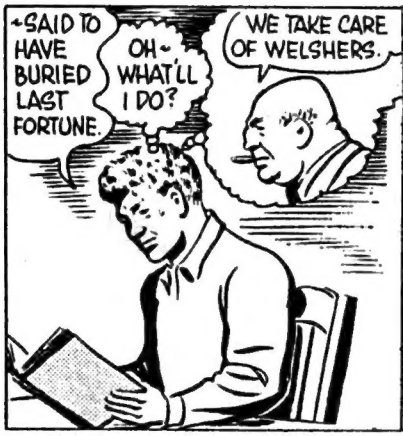
NATIVES CLAIM THE RUINS ARE HAUNTED BY THE PHANTOM TO THIS DAY - -
HOW CAN I PAY - ON SIXTY A WEEK? THEY SHOOT WELSHERS.


DO RESEARCH ON KIDDER AND TOMAS - ROD, ARE YOU LISTENING?
THOSE THUGS MEAN BUSINESS
ER - YES, SIR! KIDDER AND TOMAS.


I'M SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT ABOUT A 16TH CENTURY PIRATE CAPTAIN KIDDER - AND A LOST CITY OF TOMAS - -
HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE?

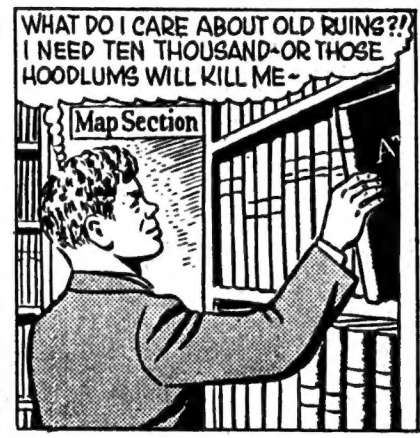

THOSE GANGSTERS'LL KILL ME IF I DON'T PAY THEM TEN THOUSAND - WHICH I HAVEN'T GOT!
- HERE IT IS - CAPTAIN THOMAS KIDDER -

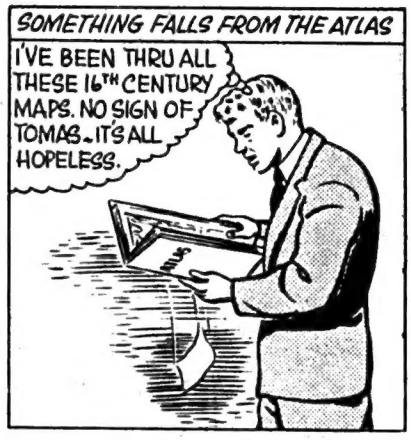
- MADE AND LOST MANY FORTUNES - HUH, I COULD USE JUST ONE - -
- FOUNDED CITY OF TOMAS - IN LEGEND, DESTROYED BY PHANTOM, JUNGLE MYTH -

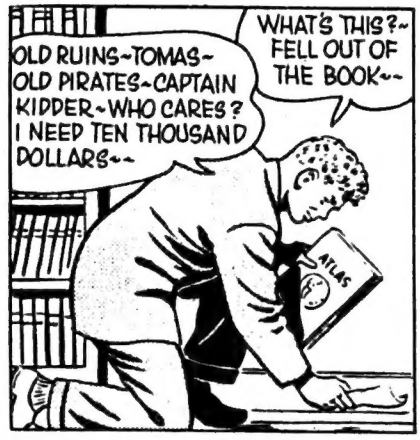

- SAID TO HAVE BURIED LAST FORTUNE.
OH - WHAT'LL I DO?
WE TAKE CARE OF WELSHERS.

GOT THE TEN GRAND? MARK'S GETTING IMPATIENT!
NOT YET, GYP. BUT I WILL! HONEST!
HOW?

PROF. DIGG, I'VE LEARNED THAT KIDDER FOUNDED TOMAS IN 1540 AND~
WE KNOW THAT, ROD! FIND THE LOCATION OF TOMAS. SEARCH OLD MAPS.


WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT OLD RUINS?! I NEED TEN THOUSAND~OR THOSE HOODLUMS WILL KILL ME~
Map Section


SOMETHING FALLS FROM THE ATLAS
I'VE BEEN THRU ALL THESE 16TH CENTURY MAPS. NO SIGN OF TOMAS~IT'S ALL HOPELESS.


OLD RUINS~TOMAS~OLD PIRATES~CAPTAIN KIDDER~WHO CARES? I NEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS~~
WHAT'S THIS?~ FELL OUT OF THE BOOK~~
ATLAS

AN OLD~MAP~HAND DRAWN~ OH, NO~TOMAS!!!

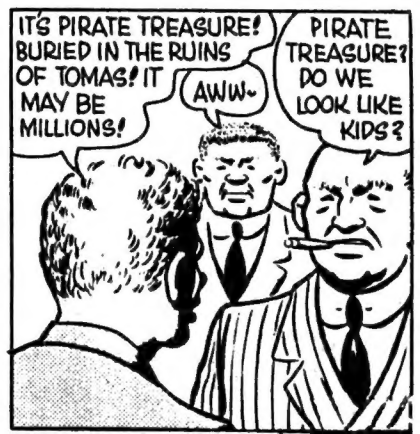
WILSON McCOY 6-3
Tomas~my city~Capt. T. Kidder
X Where I buried my last fortune Capt. T. Kidder

FIND ANYTHING YET, ROD?
ER~NO~NOTHING NEW, PROF. DIGG.

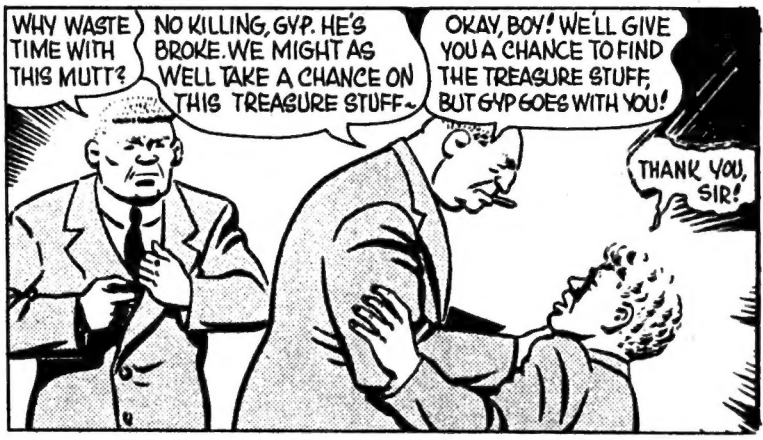
OH, GYP! I~ER~WAS JUST GOING TO SEE MARK.
I'LL BET! I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DO! GET IN THERE.

WELL, ROD~WHERE'S MY MONEY? TEN THOUSAND.
I HAVEN'T GOT IT, MARK. BUT I'VE SOMETHING BETTER~

SOMETHING BETTER THAN MONEY? YOU KIDDING? WHAT'S THIS~?
AN OLD MAP~

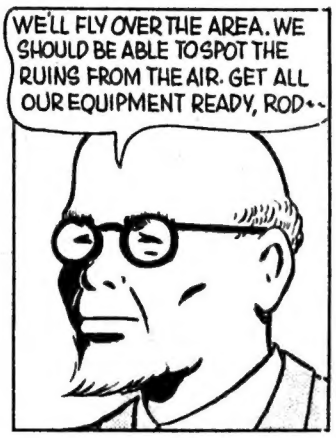

IT'S PIRATE TREASURE! BURIED IN THE RUINS OF TOMAS! IT MAY BE MILLIONS!
AWW~
PIRATE TREASURE? DO WE LOOK LIKE KIDS?

WHAT YOU GIVING ME? PIRATE TREASURE - OLD MAPS! I WANT MY TEN THOUSAND!
I HAVEN'T GOT A DIME. BUT THAT MAP - -

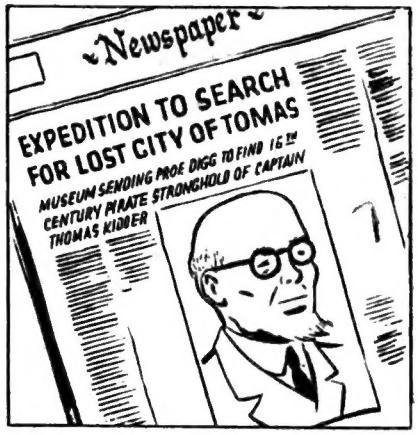

WHY WASTE TIME WITH THIS MUTT?
NO KILLING, GYP. HE'S BROKE. WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A CHANCE ON THIS TREASURE STUFF -
OKAY, BOY! WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO FIND THE TREASURE STUFF, BUT GYP GOES WITH YOU!
THANK YOU, SIR!

THE MUSEUM I WORK FOR - - WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THE RUINS OF TOMAS. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE TREASURE.

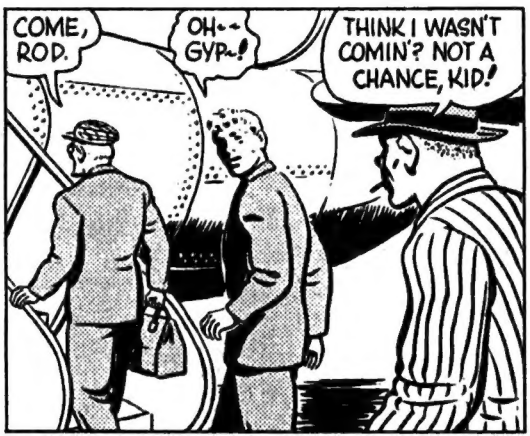
WE'VE NOT FOUND THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE TOMAS RUINS - BUT THEY'RE SOMEWHERE IN THAT JUNGLE. WE'LL GO ANYHOW - -


WE'LL FLY OVER THE AREA. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT THE RUINS FROM THE AIR. GET ALL OUR EQUIPMENT READY, ROD - -

WE SHOULD FIND VALUABLE OLD POTTERY, WEAPONS, EVEN OLD COINS - BUT MOST IMPORTANT - -
WE'LL LEARN A LOT OF THE HISTORY OF TOMAS.
HISTORY - POTTERY - THAT'S ALL HE KNOWS! I'VE GOT THE MAP OF KIDDER'S BURIED TREASURE!
WILSON McCOY 6-7
Tomas - my city - Capt. T. Kidder
* Where I buried my last fortune Capt. T. Kidder


Newspaper
EXPEDITION TO SEARCH FOR LOST CITY OF TOMAS
MUSEUM SENDING PROF. DIGG TO FIND 16TH CENTURY PIRATE STRONGHOLD OF CAPTAIN THOMAS KIDDER

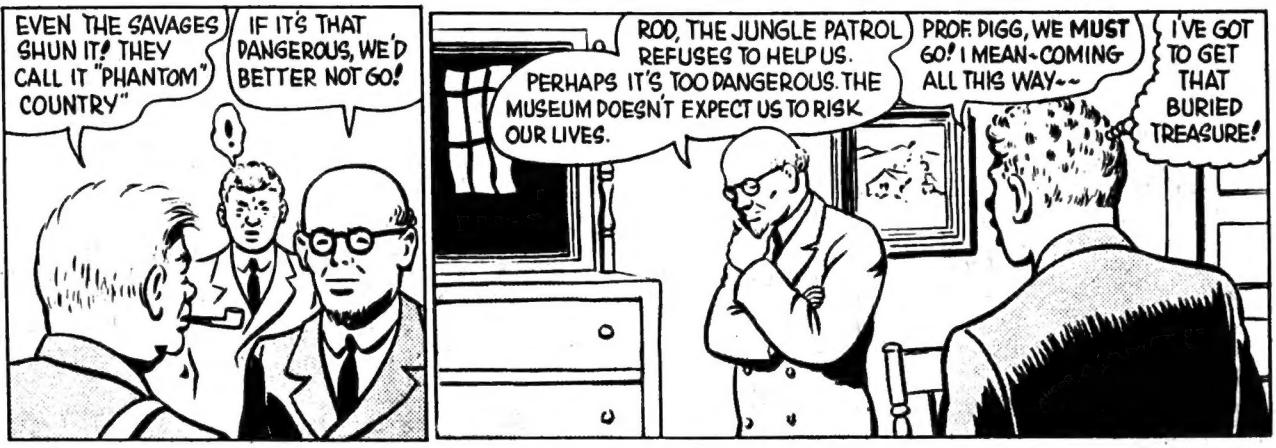
ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR PIRATE TREASURE, PROFESSOR?
NONSENSE. THIS IS AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.
MIND SPELLING THAT, PROF?


COME, ROD.
OH - - GYP - -!
THINK I WASN'T COMIN'? NOT A CHANCE, KID!

THE PLANE TAKES OFF FOR DISTANT BENGAL AND THE MYSTERIES OF LOST TOMAS
WILSON McCOY 6-8

AT THE BENGALI AIRPORT--
I RADIOED AHEAD FOR A SMALL SPOTTER PLANE TO FLY US OVER THE JUNGLE ROD. WE LEAVE AT ONCE.
LOOK, KID, YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO GIVE ME THE SLIP, ARE YOU?
OH, NO! WE'RE JUST TAKING A QUICK FLIGHT. WE'LL BE BACK.
WHO WAS THE ROUGH-LOOKING MAN YOU SPOKE TO, ROD?
OH- I MET HIM ON THE PLANE, PROF. DIGG. WE-ER-HAVE MUTUAL FRIENDS.
WILSON McCOY 6-9
IF THAT KID GETS AWAY FROM ME- MARK'LL HAVE MY HIDE.
BURIED PIRATE TREASURE- AM I LOONEY--ME, A RESPECTABLE GUNMAN?
PILOT, HAVE YOU EVER SPOTTED RUINS IN THIS AREA?
YES, PROF. DIGG. NORTH OF HERE.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ANCIENT CITY OF TOMAS.
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
SOMETHING AHEAD, SIR.
I SEE IT! LOOK-
THAT'S IT-I'M CERTAIN. THE LOST CITY OF TOMAS!
NOT MUCH LEFT OF IT.
WILSON McCOY 6-10
THAT MUST BE THE RUINS OF TOMAS. THERE'S NOT ANOTHER RUIN FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES.
TOO BAD WE CAN'T LAND NOW.
DON'T BE IMPULSIVE, ROD. NO PLACE TO LAND. BESIDES--
-WE NEED OUR EQUIPMENT AND MEN. THE PROBLEM IS TO GET THERE THRU THE JUNGLE. BUT WE'LL DO IT.
WILSON McCOY 6-11
WE MUST!
WELL?
WE FOUND THE RUINS, GYP. NOW WE HAVE TO GET THERE AND FIND THE TREASURE.
IF IT'S STILL THERE!

YOU'VE COME TO THE JUNGLE PATROL FOR HELP IN REACHING THE RUINS OF--
-TOMAS- ABOUT HERE, SIR.
THE PATROL ONLY COVERS THE BORDERS. THAT AREA IS BEYOND OUR TERRITORY. I ADVISE YOU TO FORGET THIS TRIP, PROF. DIGG.
IT'S A LAND OF HEADHUNTERS, CANNIBALS AND, MOST DANGEROUS, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE. THE AREA YOU SPEAK OF IS FORBIDDEN!


EVEN THE SAVAGES SHUN IT! THEY CALL IT "PHANTOM" COUNTRY"
IF IT'S THAT DANGEROUS, WE'D BETTER NOT GO!
ROD, THE JUNGLE PATROL REFUSES TO HELP US. PERHAPS IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THE MUSEUM DOESN'T EXPECT US TO RISK OUR LIVES.
PROF. DIGG, WE MUST GO! I MEAN-COMING ALL THIS WAY--
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT BURIED TREASURE!

I'LL GO BACK TO THE PATROL AND TRY TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS--
IF YOU CAN'T- WE GO HOME!
GYP, YOU'VE GOT TO PRETEND YOU'RE A JUNGLE PATROLMAN-GET A UNIFORM AND COME ALONG-OTHERWISE IT'S ALL OFF!
ME BE A JUNGLE PATROL-MAN?
DIGG'S CALLING OFF THE TRIP UNLESS A PATROLMAN COMES ALONG. SAYS IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

THAT MEANS-NO TREASURE! THEN HOW'LL I PAY OFF YOU THUGS-I MEAN FELLOWS?
I DON'T KNOW THE JUNGLE. I CAN'T GUIDE YOU!
WILSON McCOY 6-15
WE'VE GOT NATIVE GUIDES. ALL YOU DO IS 'ESCORT'. WE'LL GET YOU A UNIFORM-WHO'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
UH-I GUESS I GOTTA-
IT'S ALL SET, PROF. DIGG. THE PATROL'S SENDING A MAN WITH US. WE CAN LEAVE TOMORROW!
GOOD WORK, ROD!

THE MUSEUM GROUP'S GOING TO THE INTERIOR DESPITE YOUR WARNING, SIR?
YES. WE CAN'T STOP THEM. FILE THIS REPORT FOR THE COMMANDER.
THIS ALWAYS BEATS ME! OUR UNKNOWN COMMANDER -- WE FILE REPORTS OF EVERYTHING TO HIM - WHERE DO THEY GO? WHO IS HE?
TO COMMANDER J.P.
~ DOES HE EVER READ THEM?
RELAX, CORPORAL. IN THE PATROL, WE NEVER ASK THOSE QUESTIONS. YOU KNOW THAT.
IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR CENTURIES IN THE PATROL. IS HE ONE MAN - OR MANY? IS HE - AW - WHY ASK?
TOMORROW: COMMANDER.
NIGHT - A DESERTED WELL OUTSIDE JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
WAIT HERE, FELLOWS, WHILE I READ MY MAIL.
HE DESCENDS THE WELL TO A HIDDEN, UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR --
WILSON McCOY 6-17
- WHICH LEADS DIRECTLY BELOW JUNGLE PATROL H.Q.
HMM - PATROL'S HAD A BUSY WEEK. LOT OF REPORTS
THE UNKNOWN COMMANDER OF THE JUNGLE PATROL!
- A MUSEUM EXPEDITION - GOING TO EXPLORE THE RUINS OF TOMAS - ODD -- I WAS JUST THERE -
HMM - GETTING TO TOMAS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THIS MUSEUM GROUP.
I FEEL LIKE A FOOL IN THIS OUTFIT! I WON'T DO IT!
GYP, YOU HAVE TO PRETEND YOU'RE A PATROLMAN!
MARK SENT YOU TO COLLECT THAT TEN THOUSAND I OWE HIM! WITHOUT A PATROLMAN, THE TRIP'S OFF - NO TREASURE - NO PAY-OFF!
DON'T LET THE PATROL SEE YOU IN TOWN. GO TO THE WOODS TONIGHT AND MEET US.
ME -- A TOUGH GUY! LOOK AT ME!

WILL WE HAVE HEAVY RAINS AT THIS TIME?
I DUNNO
UH - THIS HORSE IS KILLIN' ME!
THE MUSEUM SAFARI STARTS THE LONG TRIP TO THE RUINS OF TOMAS.
WILSON McCOY 6-20

THAT PATROLMAN DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW THESE WOODS.
ER, HE'S NEW. OUR NATIVE GUIDES'LL GET US THRU, PROF. DIGG.

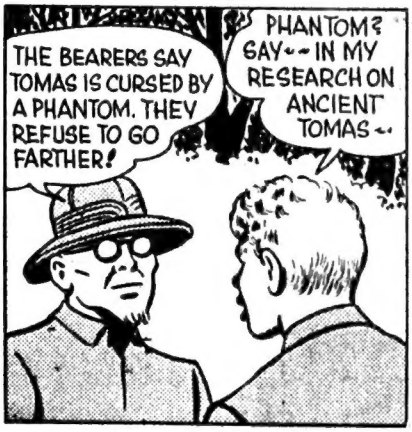
SO THAT'S THE MUSEUM EXPEDITION. I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM REACH TOMAS, BUT THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT WITHOUT HELP. TROUBLE'S AHEAD!

HOW MUCH FURTHER TO TOMAS, GUIDE?
THREE DAYS, PROFESSOR.

TOMAS - DEAD CITY!!!
PHANTOM CURSE!
HAUNTED!!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
THEY AFRAID TO GO TO TOMAS. SAY IS CURSED BY PHANTOM - TABOO!

PHANTOM? WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?
PHANTOM IS MAN WHO NEVER DIES!
DESTROYED EVIL TOMAS IN ANCIENT DAYS - NOW TABOO!


THE BEARERS SAY TOMAS IS CURSED BY A PHANTOM. THEY REFUSE TO GO FARTHER!
PHANTOM? SAY - - IN MY RESEARCH ON ANCIENT TOMAS - -

- IT SAID A PHANTOM DESTROYED TOMAS 400 YEARS AGO!
PATROLMAN, CAN'T YOU STOP OUR MEN FROM DESERTING?
HOW?

WAIT, MEN. I'LL DOUBLE YOUR PAY! DON'T GO -
TOMAS CURSED BY PHANTOM! NO!
TABOO! NO!

SUDDENLY A LOUD, CLEAR VOICE - - AS A STRANGE FIGURE RIDES OUT FROM THE BUSHES!
WAIT!
WILSON McCOY 6-22
Copr. 1933, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.

YOU KNOW WHO I AM, MEN OF BENGALI?
WE DO, O GHOST WHO WALKS.
WHO IS THAT?
ARE WE SEEING THINGS?

GO WITH THESE MEN TO TOMAS. HAVE NO FEAR. YOU WILL BE SAFE.
WE HEAR AND OBEY, PHANTOM.

HE'S GONE! DID YOU HEAR THEM...?
THEY CALLED HIM PHANTOM!
MAN, DID I EVER GET ROPED INTO A CRAZY TRIP!

THE NATIVES SAY THAT WAS THE 400-YEAR-OLD PHANTOM!
RUBBISH! A LOCAL BANDIT. BUT HE DID HELP US. WHY?
I DUNNO.

FOR A JUNGLE PATROLMAN, YOU SHOW AN AMAZING LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EVERYTHING!
YEAH? WAIT AND SEE, PROF.

I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THAT PATROLMAN. HE'S PROBABLY NEW...
THEY'LL NEED HELP GETTING THRU THE BADLANDS.

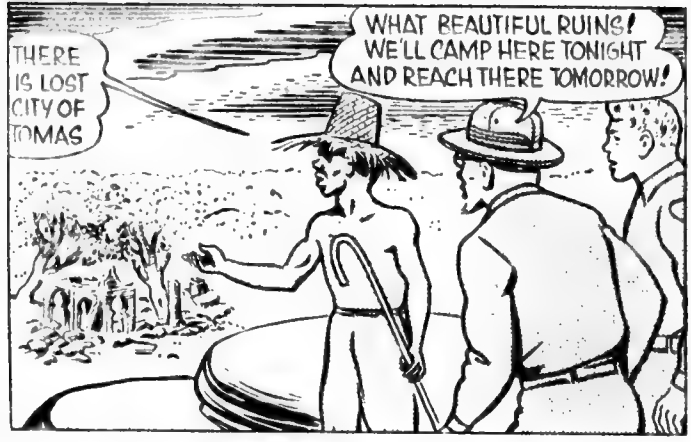
PHANTOM ORDERS... LET THE PARTY GO SAFELY TO TOMAS.

THE TOM-TOM WORDS FLOAT OVER THE JUNGLE
PHANTOM ORDERS-LET PARTY GO SAFELY TO TOMAS

THROUGHOUT THE BADLANDS... AMONG THE HEAD-HUNTERS AND CANNIBALS...
LET PARTY GO SAFELY...

I DON'T KNOW WHY THE JUNGLE PATROL INSISTED THIS JUNGLE WAS DANGEROUS...
THEY EXAGGERATE EVERYTHING

WE'VE GONE FOR DAYS-PEACEFUL AS A PARK...
OBVIOUSLY, IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE.


THERE IS LOST CITY OF TOMAS
WHAT BEAUTIFUL RUINS! WE'LL CAMP HERE TONIGHT AND REACH THERE TOMORROW!

NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE~
IT SHOULD YIELD WONDERFUL OLD WEAPONS
I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT TREASURE WITHOUT PROF. DIGG KNOWING!

GOTTA KNOCK THEM OFF AND GET THE TREASURE, MYSELF. FIRST THE OLD MAN.

PROF. DIGG, COULD I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE, OUT HERE ?
MMM~VERY WELL.

I'M TIRED OF YOUR CALLING ME DUMB.
I'VE MERELY SAID THAT FOR A JUNGLE PATROLMAN, YOUR LACK OF WOOD LORE IS AMAZING!

I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY SENT AN INCOMPETENT UH~~
WILSON McCOY 6-28

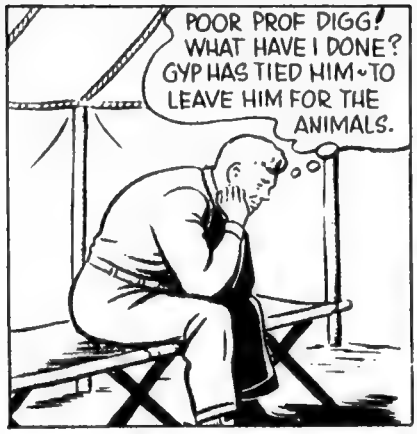
GYP~WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THIS IS AS FAR AS THE OLD MAN GOES! GET SOME ROPE, KID.

GYP, YOU CAN'T LEAVE PROF DIGG HERE!
YOU AND I KNOW ABOUT THE TREASURE. HE DOESN'T. HE'S IN THE WAY!

YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT KILLING? WE'LL JUST LEAVE HIM HERE~

~THE ANIMALS WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
NO, GYP! I WON'T PERMIT IT!

YOU WON'T WHAT? GET GOING, ROD, AND SHUT UP! I'M RUNNING THIS SHOW!


POOR PROF DIGG! WHAT HAVE I DONE? GYP HAS TIED HIM-TO LEAVE HIM FOR THE ANIMALS.

GYP, YOU CAN'T LEAVE HIM TO DIE. THAT'S MURDER!
PIPE DOWN, ROD! LET ME SEE THAT MAP!

WHEN WE HIT THEM RUINS TOMORROW WE'LL DIG WHERE THAT CROSS-MARK IS--

THERE'S THE CAMP OF THE MUSEUM GROUP. I SUPPOSE THEY'LL START DIGGING IN THE TOMAS RUINS TOMORROW.

DEVIL SUDDENLY GROWLS AND DARTS OFF

FORGET ABOUT OLD MAN DIGG. GET SOME SHUT-EYE, ROD. TOMORROW WE HIT THOSE RUINS AND THE TREASURE!

WILSON McCOY
7-1

DEVIL--WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU?

GYP OR NO GYP-I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE PROF. DIGG TO DIE! I'LL UNTIE HIM-CONFESS THE WHOLE THING.

THE STORY SO FAR: A MUSEUM SENDS PROF. DIGG AND HIS ASSISTANT, ROD, TO FIND THE ANCIENT PIRATE CITY OF TOMAS-
THE RUINS ARE ABOUT HERE, ROD.
I CAN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THIS MAP.

ROD FINDS A 400-YEAR-OLD MAP OF BURIED TREASURE LEFT BY THE PIRATE LEADER--
Tomas-my city-Capt. T. Kidder
X Where I buried my last fortune Capt. T. Kidder

ROD OWES A HUGE GAMBLING DEBT-TO GYP'S GANG-
I'LL PAY WHEN I FIND THIS TREASURE, GYP!
HUH! I'M GOIN', TOO!
WILSON McCOY 7-4

NEAR TOMAS, GYP LEAVES PROF. DIGG TO DIE IN THE JUNGLE--

I CAN'T RISK A SHOT. I MIGHT HIT THE MAN-OR DEVIL--
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT BIG CAT AWAY FROM THEM!

GO, HERO!

THE HUGE LION SUDDENLY MOVES--THE PHANTOM LEAPS--
WILSON McCOY 7-5

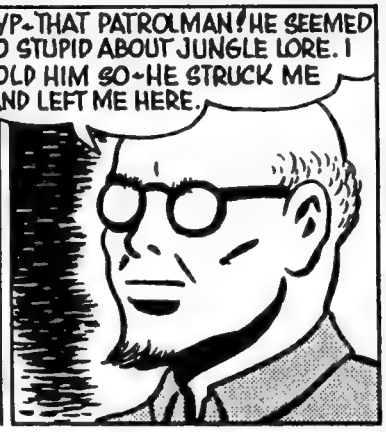
THAT MASKED MAN AGAIN-FIGHTING THAT GREAT BEAST-HE CAN'T WIN--

I CAN'T LET GO TO GET MY GUN!

HE USES ALL THE PRESSURE OF HIS IRON MUSCLES--

HE DID IT-BARE-HANDED! I-CAN'T BELIEVE IT--

THEY CALL YOU-THE PHANTOM! YOU SAVED MY LIFE-KILLING THAT LION--
WHO TIED YOU HERE, PROF. DIGG?


GYP-THAT PATROLMAN! HE SEEMED SO STUPID ABOUT JUNGLE LORE. I TOLD HIM SO-HE STRUCK ME AND LEFT ME HERE.

A JUNGLE PATROLMAN DID THAT? NO OTHER REASON?
NONE! I HATE TO THINK THAT ROD, MY ASSISTANT, HELPED HIM--
WILSON McCOY 7-7

I CAN'T BELIEVE A PATROLMAN WOULD LEAVE YOU HERE TO DIE. I'LL LOOK INTO THIS--

GYP OR NO GYP, I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE PROF. DIGG TO DIE IN THIS JUNGLE-I'LL UNTIE HIM-CONFESS EVERYTHING-

-HOW I FOUND THE TREASURE MAP-AND OWED GAMBLING DEBTS TO GYP'S MOB AND-
HUH-- A DEAD LION!

THIS IS WHERE WE LEFT PROF. DIGG-BUT WHERE IS HE? AND WHO KILLED THE LION? AND HOW? NO SIGN OF A BULLET--

DOUBLE-CROSSIN' ME, ROD! LETTIN' THE OLD MAN GO! WHERE IS HE?
I DIDN'T, GYP! HE'S JUST-GONE! I DON'T KNOW HOW!

DON'T LIE, ROD! WHO ELSE COULDA LET THE OLD MAN GO?
I DON'T KNOW, GYP! HE WAS GONE WHEN I-- LOOK--

HUH--A LION! A DEAD ONE--
THAT WAS HERE TOO!

NO SIGN OF A WOUND! SOMETHIN' JUST BROKE IT--
LOOK-- THERE--!
SKULL MARK!

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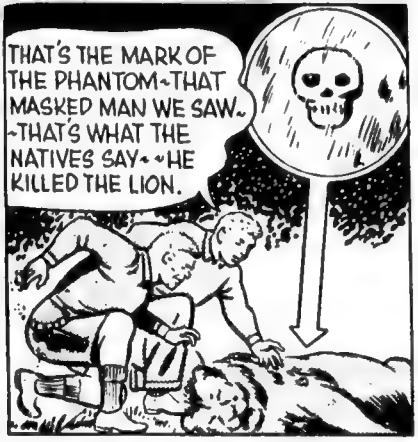
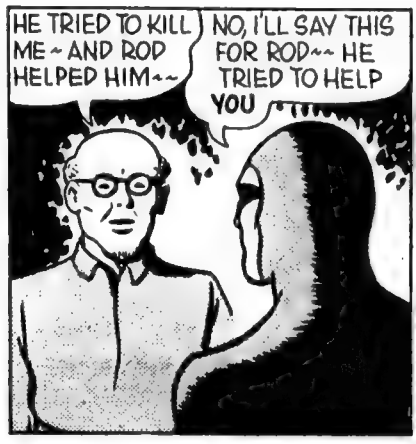

THAT'S THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM~THAT MASKED MAN WE SAW.~ ~THAT'S WHAT THE NATIVES SAY~~HE KILLED THE LION.

PHANTOM~MAN WHO CANNOT DIE~ HE DESTROYED TOMAS 400 YEARS AGO! HE'S STILL ALIVE~AFTER US~~
STOP THAT CRAZY TALK!

TOMORROW WE'RE DIGGING UP THAT TREASURE~AND GETTIN' OUTA HERE! I HAD ENOUGH OF SPOOKS!
BUT WHERE'S PROF. DIGG?

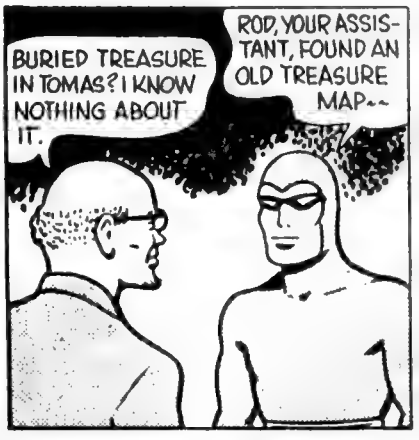
WHO CARES? GIVE ME THE TREASURE MAP! BETTER BE TREASURE THERE!
I'LL PAY OFF MY GAMBLING DEBT~AND SEE THE LAST OF YOU!

PROF. DIGG. THE JUNGLE PATROLMAN IS A PHONY. HE'S A GAMBLER NAMED GYP
I KNEW IT! HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE WOODS.


HE TRIED TO KILL ME~AND ROD HELPED HIM~~
NO, I'LL SAY THIS FOR ROD~~ HE TRIED TO HELP YOU

BUT WHY DID HE DO ALL THIS?
ROD OWES MONEY TO GYP AND SOME GAMBLERS. THEY HOPE TO FIND TREASURE AT TOMAS~

TREASURE~IN THOSE OLD RUINS?
YES. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A TREASURE MAP?


BURIED TREASURE IN TOMAS? I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
ROD, YOUR ASSISTANT, FOUND AN OLD TREASURE MAP~~

HE NEVER TOLD ME! SO THAT'S WHY HE'S ACTED SO STRANGELY!
I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS. WAIT HERE.

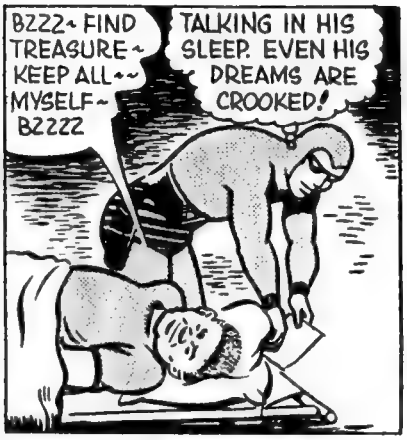
WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR PROF. DIGG?
I'M KEEPIN' THIS MAP WITH ME. NOW GET OUT, ROD, SO I CAN GET SOME SHUT-EYE.
MAP

TOMORROW~~ TOMAS~~ TREASURE~~ BZZZZZ~~
WILSON McCOY 7-13

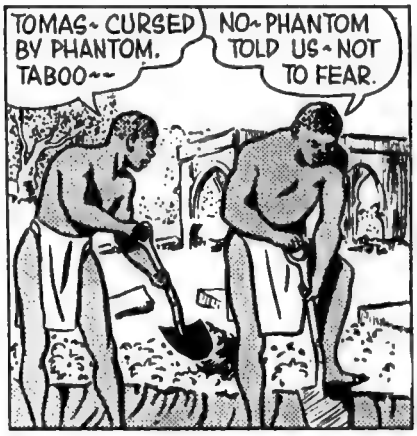
HERE'S THE MAP, PROF. DIGG.
HMM~~~IT'S GENUINE! CENTURIES OLD~ PARCHMENT! CAPTAIN T. KIDDER!
WILSON McCOY 7-14

THOMAS KIDDER, THE PIRATE LEADER. SAID TO HAVE HAD A STRANGE SENSE OF HUMOR. THE PHANTOM DUELED HIM 400 YEARS AGO.

WAIT HERE. I'LL RETURN THIS.
OF ALL THE MYSTERIES~ HE IS THE MOST! WHO~OR WHAT~~ IS HE?


BZZZ~ FIND TREASURE~ KEEP ALL~~ MYSELF~ BZZZZ
TALKING IN HIS SLEEP. EVEN HIS DREAMS ARE CROOKED!

THE RUINS OF TOMAS.
WE'LL START DIGGING HERE!

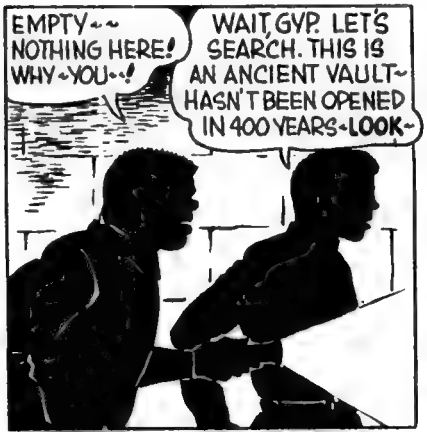

TOMAS~ CURSED BY PHANTOM. TABOO~~
NO~ PHANTOM TOLD US~ NOT TO FEAR.

THEY'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR HOURS~NOTHIN'! IF THIS IS A WILD-GOOSE CHASE~~

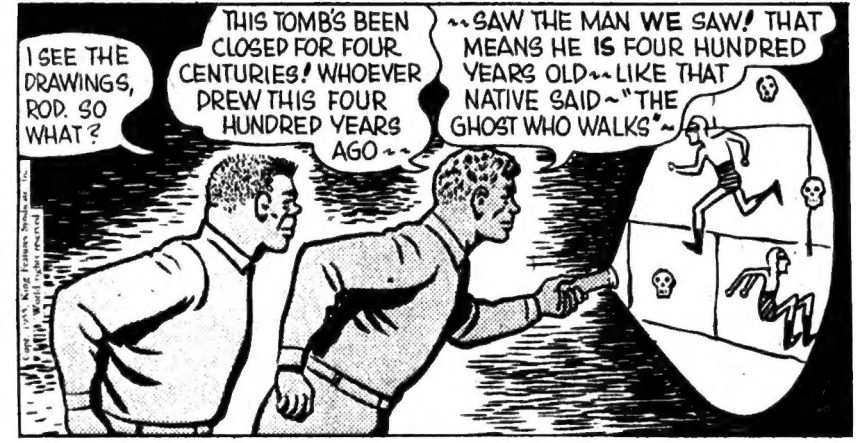
LOOK~~ DOOR!

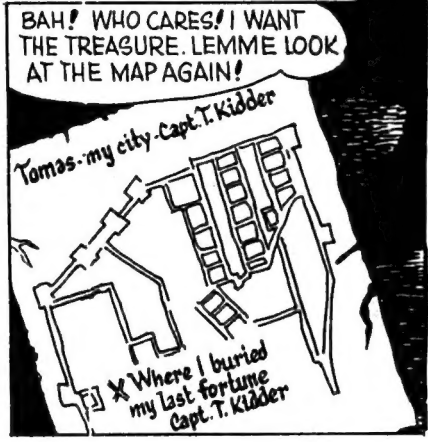
THIS MUST BE IT! THE TREASURE CHAMBER!
SHH~ FOOL~~ DON'T LET THEM HEAR YOU!

WANNA BROADCAST TO EVERYBODY WHAT WE'RE DOIN'? YOU GO FIRST.
NATURALLY.


EMPTY~~ NOTHING HERE! WHY~YOU~~!
WAIT, GYP. LET'S SEARCH. THIS IS AN ANCIENT VAULT~ HASN'T BEEN OPENED IN 400 YEARS~LOOK~

DRAWINGS~~OF THAT MASKED MAN~THE PHANTOM!
WILSON McCOY 7-16

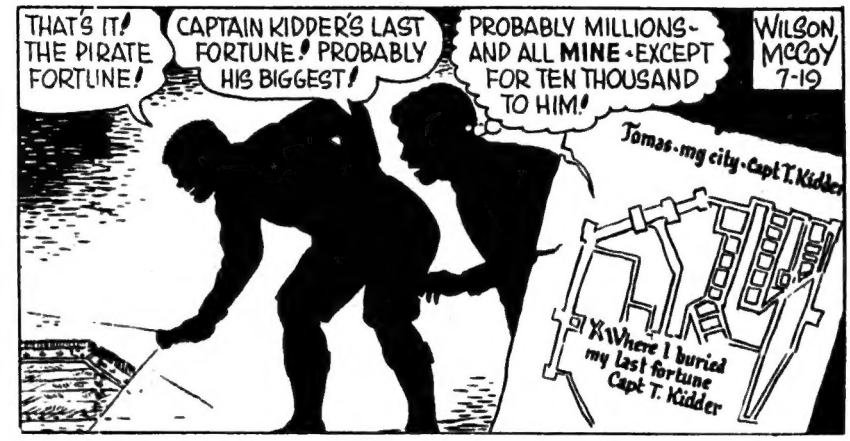

I SEE THE DRAWINGS, ROD. SO WHAT?
THIS TOMB'S BEEN CLOSED FOR FOUR CENTURIES! WHOEVER DREW THIS FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO~~
~~SAW THE MAN WE SAW! THAT MEANS HE IS FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OLD~~LIKE THAT NATIVE SAID~"THE GHOST WHO WALKS"~


BAH! WHO CARES! I WANT THE TREASURE. LEMME LOOK AT THE MAP AGAIN!
Tomas-my city-Capt.T.Kidder
X Where I buried my last fortune Capt. T. Kidder

MUST BE RIGHT HERE~~
THERE!
WILSON McCOY 7-18

UH-SURE THE TREASURE'S HERE? IT WON'T BUDGE!
IT HASN'T BEEN OPENED FOR 400 YEARS! NOW-TOGETHER-ONE~~TWO~~

THREE! UH!


THAT'S IT! THE PIRATE FORTUNE!
CAPTAIN KIDDER'S LAST FORTUNE! PROBABLY HIS BIGGEST!
PROBABLY MILLIONS-AND ALL MINE-EXCEPT FOR TEN THOUSAND TO HIM!
WILSON McCOY 7-19
Tomas-my city-Capt T. Kidder
X Where I buried my last fortune Capt T. Kidder

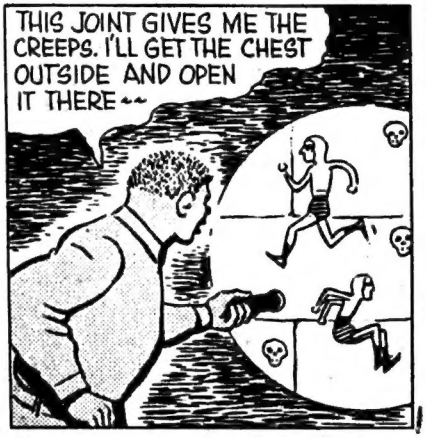
THINK THEY'VE FOUND THE PIRATE TREASURE?
WE'LL KNOW SOON, PROFESSOR. THE RUINS ARE JUST AHEAD.

I DON'T SEE ROD OR THAT GANGSTER "GYP"~
THEY MUST BE UNDERGROUND. THEY MAY HAVE FOUND IT.

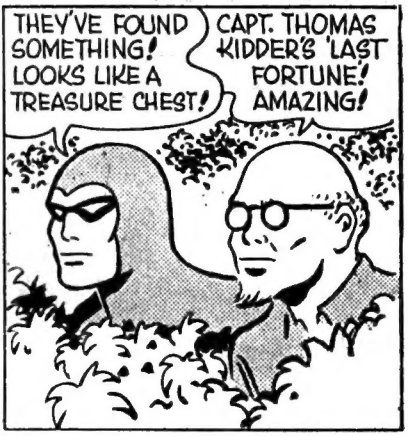
LEMME OPEN IT, ROD.
NO! REMEMBER, GYP, THIS IS MINE. ALL EXCEPT YOUR TEN THOUSAND!
IT MAY HOLD MILLIONS.

SO I'LL OPEN IT! UH~~
WILSON McCOY 7-20

I CAN'T BREAK THE LOCK ON THIS BLASTED OLD TREASURE CHEST--


THIS JOINT GIVES ME THE CREEPS. I'LL GET THE CHEST OUTSIDE AND OPEN IT THERE--

TOSS SOME ROPE ENDS DOWN HERE. TIE THE OTHER ENDS TO THE DONKEYS. WE'VE GOT A HAULING JOB!


THEY'VE FOUND SOMETHING! LOOKS LIKE A TREASURE CHEST!
CAPT. THOMAS KIDDER'S 'LAST FORTUNE! AMAZING!

WE GO? WHAT OF OTHER MAN DOWN THERE?
I'LL HAVE A LOOK.

HE'S DOIN' FINE DOWN THERE.

HE LIKES IT DOWN THERE. HE WANTS TO STAY

IN THE RUINS OF THE ANCIENT PIRATE CITY OF TOMAS.
BUT THAT MAN DOWN THERE?
NEVER MIND HIM. HE WANTS TO STAY THERE. HE LIKES IT! GET GOING!
ONCE I GET AWAY FROM THIS CREEPY PLACE, I'LL OPEN THE TREASURE CHEST.

NOW GET THE DONKEYS MOVING!
SO I CAN OPEN THE TREASURE CHEST.

AND IN THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER~
WHERE AM I? ~UH~ GYP MUST HAVE HIT ME--

HE LEFT ME DOWN HERE~ SEALED ME IN--
GYP~ LET ME OUT! YOU CAN HAVE THE TREASURE! DON'T BURY ME ALIVE!

GYP-LET ME OUT-YOU CAN HAVE THE TREASURE!
THERE MUST BE ROCKS ON THE COVER. I CAN'T BUDGE IT!

NO AIR-I'LL SUFFOCATE-NATIVES SAID THIS PLACE WAS CURSED BY THE PHANTOM-
ALL MY OWN FAULT-GETTING WHAT I DESERVE.

SUDDENLY THE ROCKS MOVE--
I TRIED TO CHEAT PROF. DIGG OUT OF THE TREASURE-I WAS GREEDY-DESERVE TO DIE--NO AIR-NO AIR--
WILSON McCOY 7-25

NO AIR-BURIED ALIVE--
RELAX, ROD. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
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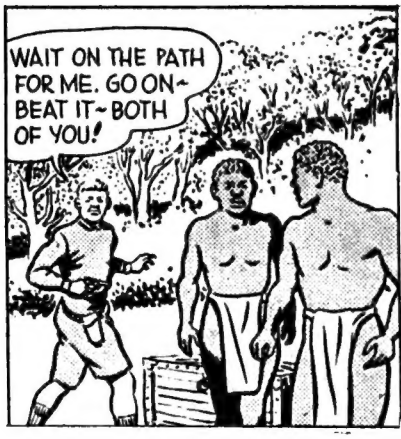
I'M ASHAMED, PROF. DIGG. I FOUND THE TREASURE MAP, BUT HID IT FROM YOU. I OWED GYP'S CROWD GAMBLING DEBTS-TEN THOUSAND-
THEY THREATENED ME. THE TREASURE WAS MY ONLY CHANCE-BUT I DIDN'T WANT GYP TO HURT YOU--
HE TRIED TO SAVE YOU, DIGG.

GYP FORCED ME TO GO ON-AFTER WE FOUND THE TREASURE, HE TRIED TO KILL ME, TOO!
HMM-THAT GANGSTER HAS THE TREASURE!

PUT THE CHEST DOWN HERE-THEN CLEAR OUT-ALL OF YOU!
NOW--TO OPEN IT!


WAIT ON THE PATH FOR ME. GO ON-BEAT IT-BOTH OF YOU!

NOW-AT LAST-THE TREASURE CHEST. "CAPTAIN KIDDER'S LAST FORTUNE"-THAT'S WHAT HIS MAP SAYS! AND I'VE GOT IT!

PROBABLY WORTH MILLIONS! I WON'T TAKE THIS BACK TO THE GANG! KEEP IT ALL, MYSELF-NOW--

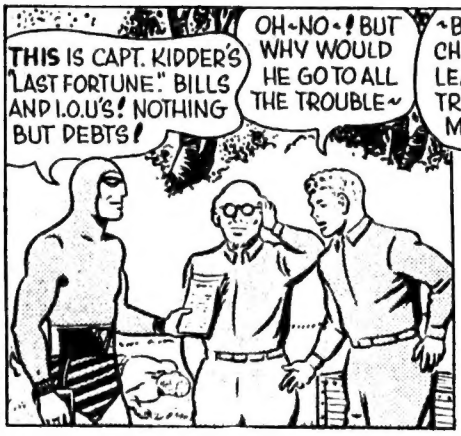
WHAT IS-THIS?
??

IS THIS THE-- UH--
END OF THE LINE FOR YOU, GYP!

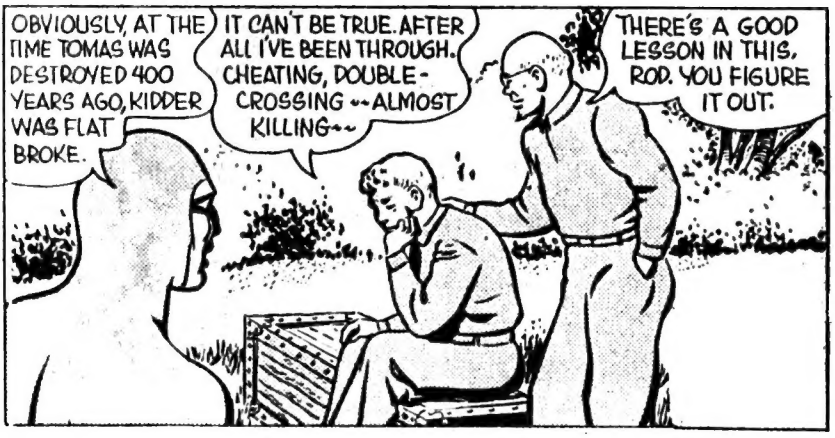
YOU TRIED TO KILL TWO MEN FOR THIS TREASURE!

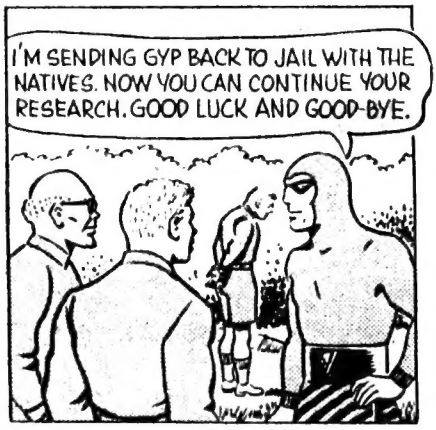
NATIVES SAY THE PHANTOM'S LAUGHTER WAS HEARD FOR MILES THAT DAY--!
?
WHAT IS IT?

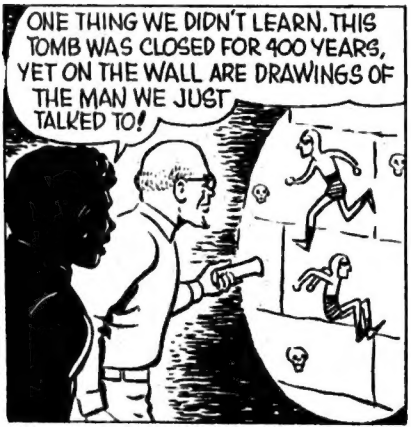
SO THIS IS THE LAST FORTUNE OF CAPTAIN THOMAS KIDDER! HOHO-- HAHA--


THIS IS CAPT. KIDDER'S "LAST FORTUNE." BILLS AND I.O.U'S! NOTHING BUT DEBTS!
OH-NO-! BUT WHY WOULD HE GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE--

--BURYING THE CHEST AND LEAVING THE TREASURE MAP?
BECAUSE HE HAD AN ODD SENSE OF HUMOR. THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIS NAME-- "KIDDER"


OBVIOUSLY, AT THE TIME TOMAS WAS DESTROYED 400 YEARS AGO, KIDDER WAS FLAT BROKE.
IT CAN'T BE TRUE. AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH. CHEATING, DOUBLE-CROSSING --ALMOST KILLING--
THERE'S A GOOD LESSON IN THIS, ROD. YOU FIGURE IT OUT.


I'M SENDING GYP BACK TO JAIL WITH THE NATIVES. NOW YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH. GOOD LUCK AND GOOD-BYE.


ONE THING WE DIDN'T LEARN. THIS TOMB WAS CLOSED FOR 400 YEARS, YET ON THE WALL ARE DRAWINGS OF THE MAN WE JUST TALKED TO!

COULD HE REALLY BE THE GHOST WHO WALKS-- THE MAN WHO NEVER DIES?
I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

NOW I KNOW WHAT MY ANCESTOR, THE FIRST PHANTOM, MEANT.
WILSON McCOY 7-30
Capt. Kidder, tho a rogue, had an odd sense of humor.
NEXT WEEK: NEW ADVENTURE.